



Guidance for Managing Gasoline & Water Mixtures Generated at Gas Stations

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Normal gas station activities such as managing spill buckets and sumps may result in gasoline and water mixtures (“gas water mixtures”). Such mixtures with economically recoverable amounts of gasoline may be eligible for MassDEP’s conditional exemption for gasoline and water mixtures generated at gas stations at 310 CMR 30.104(3)(e).

Pursuant to 310 CMR 30.104(3)(e), this exemption is only for gas water mixtures that are a hazardous waste (either for the ignitability and/or the toxicity characteristic - for benzene) and have economically recoverable amounts of gasoline that can be reclaimed. Generators that choose to manage gas water mixtures under this conditional exemption must do so in full compliance with 310 CMR 30.104(3)(e); otherwise, such mixtures are subject to all applicable requirements of 310 CMR 30.000. US EPA has guidance on what constitutes legitimate recycling of gas water mixtures* and as a RCRA authorized hazardous waste program, MassDEP is bound by this guidance. Therefore, non-hazardous gas water mixtures and gas water mixtures without economically recoverable amounts of gasoline must be managed separately from mixtures that are exempt under 310 CMR 30.104(3)(e).

Any person who generates waste shall determine if that waste is hazardous in accordance with 310 CMR 30.302. If a generator utilizes 310 CMR 30.302(3)(b) for gas water mixtures by applying knowledge of the hazardous characteristics of the waste in light of the materials or the process used, they shall ensure it’s done in full compliance with 310 CMR 30.302. Generators may ask the Department for guidance on this subject, or consult a licensed hazardous waste transporter or underground storage tank (UST) testing contractor, on how to manage and characterize such waste streams (e.g., by managing wastewaters with recoverable gas product separately for reclamation from water that is non-hazardous and has no recoverable product). Gas and water mixtures that are hazardous for some reason other than the ignitability characteristic or the toxicity characteristic for benzene are not exempt pursuant to 310 CMR 30.104(3)(e).

For more information call the MassDEP hazardous waste compliance assistance line at 617-292-5898.

* <https://rcrapublic.epa.gov/files/14883.pdf>

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